

DEMAND A BETTER SCHOOL INSPECTION

Inquirers Find Model of Visiting Nurse System at Orange, New Jersey.

Medical inspection of schools as conducted in Washington has been assailed on all sides as inadequate. But what sort of medical inspection is needed?

Visiting nurses are provided for in the District appropriation bill. But what are they to do?

A comparison of a satisfactory system of medical inspection with the District methods is the best way to clear up the hazy ideas on this subject.

By J. R. HILDEBRAND.

For its 172 occupied school buildings, Washington has thirteen medical inspectors, two of whom make dental inspections only.

These inspectors, the three hours a day they are supposed to devote to school work, can visit each building but twice a week, and then see only such pupils as teachers send to them.

Members of the Mothers' Congress, in conjunction with representatives of several parent-teacher associations, have been investigating conditions of medical inspection in other cities. They assert that the District is far behind cities of its size in its provisions for the care of children's health.

Complete data has been obtained from several of these cities. The system in vogue at Orange, N. J., was described to a Times representative, because visiting nurses are employed there, because the work has been done in a systematic way, and not too costly for practicality.

Large Number of Absences. That an unnecessarily large number of absences exist in the Washington schools because of preventable diseases is the allegation of one of the Mothers' Congress investigators.

"To mothers," this member stated, "the District 'Gives' me your 5,000 children during the formative period of life. It will educate them and care for their mental growth. Each child will cost me approximately \$40 a year."

"Last year the enrollment, in round numbers, was kindergarten, 2,000; elementary, 47,000; and secondary, 6,000. But from the kindergarten, 1,000, or one-third, remained away from the elementary schools; 10,000, or one-fourth, were absent, and in the secondary schools, 5,000, or one-sixth, were absent."

"That makes a total of 12,000 children, or 25 per cent, of children absent during that year. The loss to the District of this absence is large. For school expenses go on just the same. The loss to the pupils is heavy. For each time an absent pupil returns he holds back his class."

Work in Two Classes. In Orange, N. J., the inspection of seven schools is carried on by one physician and by two nurses. The work there divides itself into two classes, the inspection of each child and the yearly physical examination of each child. One feature of the work there just adopted in Boston is a large card, covering the twelve years of a child's school life. On one side are his ratings in lessons. On the other side is his yearly physical examination report, and any information forthcoming from the frequent inspections of his physical condition. So that a teacher, on the hunt for the reason for his deficiency in studies, may have at her hand information concerning his physical condition that might bear on his mentality.

The daily inspection is an interesting feature of the Orange work. Dr.

IS AID TO GOETHALS



MAJOR F. C. BOGGS, Officer in the Engineer Corps, who retains his post as general purchasing agent in the Canal Zone, in the new governor's cabinet.

Katherine Porter, who introduced the system described a typical day's work.

"The nurse goes each morning to the school for which she is scheduled. She sees, in the office, any children who may be sent to her by a teacher, or who have been absent and bring an excuse for illness. This is done to eliminate the possibility of any child returning too soon after a mild attack of one of the contagious diseases. She then begins her class-room inspection, which is very thoroughly done, as each child passes singly in front of her, and she inspects his hands to see whether they are clean or not, or whether there is any sign of desquamation after a mild and undiscovered attack of scarlet fever."

"She observes the presence of conjunctivitis or pink eye. She examines his throat for tonsillitis, or diphtheria, his hair for pediculosis and nits, and sees that his general appearance is neat and clean. By reason of this inspection, many cases of unsuspected diseases are discovered and either excluded or recorded. In 1910-11, 160,314 inspections were made of 3,408 children, meaning that each child was inspected once a week."

Inspections at Home. The visiting nurses go to homes to see that children sent there are properly cared for. They do not permit children to return to school until quarantine periods are up. In Washington they may return and associate with other children before the medical inspector arrives.

In Washington, no provision is made for frequent inspection of well pupils by experts. A child must be diseased in before the teacher's attention is drawn to the case, either by absence or by a request to be allowed to go home.

The direct results of this system of examination and inspections, and the application of remedial measures based on the findings, was the reduction of the rate of "abnormal" pupils, which stood at 21 per cent for the first year to 13 per cent in the second year.

The system now is in its third year. The Mothers' Congress member stated, "And there have been no epidemics, and no schools closed, as was the case yearly before. It was found that one family was responsible for closing one school every year. That mother has been taught cleanliness."

"Cases of defective eyesight, defective hearing, adenoids, and enlarged tonsils, which, under less expert examination, would have gone undetected, have been corrected."

"The examination covers those defects. The inspections protect pupils from diseases that might not be detected by the teacher until the incipient stages had been passed. They protect pupils from the return of a child before danger of contagion has passed. They insure the ill child the advice of a nurse, who provides proper medical care when the family is not qualified to attend to such details."

Dowagers Tango Crazed. Poor Bachelors!

Steering and dragging Helms of Avordupois, dowagers who have almost reached the allotted span of years, and specimens of every other type of clumsy femininity, over hardwood floors throughout both afternoon and evening, is working havoc with society's bachelors.

Especially is this true of the unmarried men of the Diplomatic Corps, upon whom this new hardship is imposed since the "old ladies" learned to tango.

Dispatches today tell of the untold anguish being endured in London by the bachelor diplomats, whose duty it has become to dance with the enthusiastic and portly dowagers, who are "just wild" about the tango. Washington presents the same pitfalls as does the British capital. Its elderly women are just as clamorous as London's, and just a few of its men have to bear the brunt.

For diplomats, they just have to accept these afternoon invitations as well as the evening "bids." If they didn't their social prestige—the one great asset of a diplomatic career—would be seriously impaired. Of course, it's no trouble whatever to go to an afternoon affair—by a night affair, either for a diplomat. It's just part of his life, that's all. But to arrive at a party and, after perusing with a well-monocled eye, the feminine group, to discover none under the age of fifty-five or sixty is disconcerting. Probably there is not a hair of the hundred or more fine-lined heads that haven't long since lost its original color. Probably there is no prospective partner under the 300-pound mark.

Dance and Dance and Dance. "It isn't their weight, or their looks, or their age that annoys," explained a diplomat-bachelor today. "It's their enthusiasm. They just dance and dance and dance, and then want to dance more."

Time there was when a respectful bow to a lady whom one saw sitting in a ball room would suffice. She

was there as a chaperon and expected nothing more than conversation. Now to pass a dowager when dancing is in progress, whether ball room, drawing room, cafe, or elsewhere means the loss of her friendship. She'll "cut you dead," look right over your head, the next time she sees you.

"Why didn't you dance with me last night," is not an unusual query from one who one would think had long forgotten everything she ever knew of the "tango fantastic." And if you happen accidentally to bump into one of these enthusiastic dowagers and cause momentary halt to her graceful movement, she'll bend on you a look that'll make you shudder. Why should you dare to ruin a step she has perfected only through weeks of labor?

When an athlete gets his "second wind" it's usually conceded that he is much more fit to continue the feat he is attempting than before. Hence, the woe of the bachelors, for the dowagers have gotten their "second wind" and no mere man can cope with them in enthusiasm.

Humor and Pathos. Humorous, but pathetic, is the plight of a poor diplomat in the agonies of a tango. He is just born to emulate Isadora Duncan, Gertrude Hoffman or other professional dancers. He is carried about the room at an hour or so when the music stops. He heaves a sigh of relief.

But no. Madame claps vigorously for an encore. The victim's friends realize his plight and aid in the clapping. Hopefully clasping his portly companion, he is carried off again. Time and again, the orchestra encores, as dowagers applaud and men take delight in the pitiable entanglement of those paired off incompatibly.

"Save me, Save me," in Spanish, continually pleaded one diplomat to the members of the "stag line," as he danced by with a panting, heavy companion through nearly an hour's ordeal. "Let's arrange a little tango party for tonight," is the usual plea of the "old ladies" at the end of an abominable affair. Poor man prays only for rest.

Obituaries

MARY E. HAWKINS, at 128 Oakdale street northeast, March 21.

MARTIN LAUXMANN, at 709 North Capitol street, yesterday.

RICHARD L. PARRY, at 2913 P street northeast, yesterday.

ANNIE THERESA DONOVAN, at 2603 Fourteenth street northeast, yesterday.

BERT G. HALL, at 1216 Sixteenth street northeast, yesterday.

HARRY LEUCHT, March 21.

JAMES O'CONNOR, at 11 1/2 I street northeast, yesterday.

CHARLES D. PRENTISS, at 1928 Seventh street northeast, yesterday.

ARTHUR H. REINTZEL, yesterday.

Bay State Official to Explain Minimum Wage

The question of a minimum wage scale for women in the District will be discussed by H. LaRue Brown, chairman of the Massachusetts Minimum Wage Board, at the annual meeting of the Consumers' League at Raucher's tomorrow afternoon.

Mr. Brown will tell of the work of the Massachusetts board and the conditions which led to its establishment. While it is generally denied by employers here that the passage of the eight-hour law has resulted in a wholesale reduction of wages, members of the Consumers' League assert that in some instances the pay of women has been reduced.

Will Oppose Suffrage.

Miss Minnie Bronson, secretary of the National Anti-Suffrage Association, will appear before the House Committee on Elections tomorrow. She will present to the committee the reasons why the association which she represents is opposed to woman suffrage.

SEEKS SEAT IN HOUSE



JAMES O'BRYNE, Secretary to Senator Hughes of New Jersey, who is campaigning for nomination to succeed the late Congressman Bremner.

City News Notes

No more proper or fitting temperature could possibly have been an accompaniment to the lecture, "Some Aspects of Icelandic Literature," than that at All Souls Church last night. Those who heard the paper read by Laila Magnusson. Trouble with the heating plant necessitated keeping on furs and overcoats during the lecture, but the low temperature detracted in no way from the wealth and worth of information given by the speaker.

A statue of William Pitt is being planned for the Capitol by Lady Paget, wife of Gen. Sir Arthur Paget, and other American women in England, to commemorate the peace centenary. Francis Duerwent Wood has been commissioned to execute the statue.

"Celts and Calabrians: Sketches in Rhyme," is the subject of a public address to be given by T. A. Daly, editor of the Catholic Standard and Times, of Philadelphia, at McMahon Hall, Catholic University, tonight.

Fire caused by a gas jet damaged the home of Walter Robinson, 61 Park road, to the extent of \$200, early this morning. Mr. Robinson was burned about the hands and feet and his mother was slightly burned about the face. Neither case is serious.

Thieves entered the home of J. A. Falconer, 1238 Cathedral avenue northwest, yesterday, and stole an Elk watch chain valued at \$5.

T. C. Bailey, a clerk in the office of the Auditor for the Interior Department, was presented with an umbrella by fellow employees on Saturday, his fifteenth anniversary in the Government service.

An entertainment for the blind will be conducted at the National Library for the Blind, tonight at 8 o'clock. Miss Emma L. Ostrander, President of the Washington Readers' Club, will give a dramatic reading. On Saturday next, at 2:30 o'clock, a selected reading will be rendered by Miss Lily C. Abrahams.

O'BRYNE IS IN RACE FOR BREMNER SEAT

Senator Hughes' Secretary Has Many Supporters in New Jersey Campaign.

Members of Congress and scores of Congressional secretaries will have their ears to the ground next week to receive the returns from the Bremner district in New Jersey, where James O'Byrne, secretary to Senator William Hughes, is running for Congress. More than one secretary to a Congressman or Senator has entered the field of active politics, received an election, and made good, and the supporters of Mr. O'Byrne believe he will succeed.

Mr. O'Byrne, one of the most popular secretaries ever about the Senate or House Office buildings, has been with Senator Hughes for ten years, and the Senator is taking a keen interest in the political battle of his protégé. While Mr. Hughes was in the House, "Jimmy" O'Byrne was with him, and when the Democrats came into control the party caucus reposed enough confidence in the young New Jersey man to make him journal clerk of the caucus. He held the place throughout the Sixty-second Congress, and then Mr. Hughes went over to the Senate, taking the capable O'Byrne with him.

Mr. O'Byrne is a candidate for the Democratic nomination to succeed the late Congressman "Smiling Bob" Bremner, who was his close friend.

"Jimmy" O'Byrne was born in Paterson and has friends all over New Jersey. "pulling for him" in the fight in Passaic county. Another batch of friends in Washington also are anxiously awaiting the returns and although the nomination fight is a lively one, reports are that O'Byrne has an excellent chance. The fact that he is thoroughly familiar with the duties of a member of Congress and with the National Capital is aiding him in the contest.

If Mr. O'Byrne lands the nomination, he will plunge right into the fight to keep the Passaic county district Democratic, and in this effort he will have the support of leading Democrats in and out of Congress. The Administration leaders want to keep around politically and are anxious to see a Democrat returned in the place of "Smiling Bob" Bremner.

Girl Scouts Will Rally, 150 Strong, Next Saturday

Girl Scouts of the District promise to rival their brothers in scoutcraft next Saturday afternoon, when the big rally will be held at Epiphany Church, Nearly 150 Girl Scouts are expected to attend. Preliminary organization of four additional troops has been perfected, which increase the number of troops to ten, with a membership of about 230 girls.

Edith Johnston, general secretary of the Girl Scouts, will be present at the outing. An attractive program has been prepared.

Arions to Dance.

The Arion Gesangverein announces an entertainment and dance to be given at its hall, 1006 E street northwest, tonight. Charles Hof is chairman of the committee of entertainment.

FIGHT HIGHER TAXES ON COBBLE STREETS

Central Citizens Call Upon Commissioners for Better Paving and Lights.

Vigorously opposing any increase in taxes until improvements are made to streets in their section, members of the Central Citizens' Association at their meeting in the North Capitol Street Savings Bank yesterday severely criticized the District Commissioners for permitting cobblestone paving in poor repair to remain on H street and First street. A resolution offered by James Knishvick called attention to the improvements made by owners of property on these streets and urged the Commissioners to replace the present paving with asphalt. In the discussion of the resolution several members said assessments on their business houses had been doubled. The resolution was unanimously passed.

The work of the committee of 100 in connection with preserving the present half-and-half plan in the District was endorsed, and it was voted to co-operate in every possible way with the committee. The Commissioners will be asked to extend the proposed new lighting system on G, H and I streets to North Capitol, and the association expressed its complaint that the Washington Terminal Company viaducts at H and I streets were not sufficiently lighted.

Tax Expert to Address Citizens of West End

Benjamin F. Lindas, of the Tax Reform Association, will address the West End Citizens' Association tonight in Kidder Hall, at Twentieth street and Pennsylvania avenue northwest.

Charts will be shown illustrating the assessments, expenditures, receipts, and exemption from large amounts of Government property. The necessary for some sort of an arrangement as the half-and-half plan will be pointed out, where the Government meets its obligations to the District.

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Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets very quickly restore appetite by making the stomach want food. The stomach readily recovers from indigestion, dyspepsia, etc., as soon as it is enabled to digest food. Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets taken after each meal quickly digest that meal and thus wonderfully rest the stomach.

In a short time the digestion assumes its normal condition, and then appetite—and a good appetite, too—is the natural consequence. One may actually fatten a few Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, place them in a glass tube with meat, grains, vegetables, etc., and these tablets will digest the contents of the tube without aid. Just think then how quickly and efficiently they act when they are mixed with the food in one's system and what a great relief it is to the digestive apparatus to have its fluids so enriched. Go to your druggist today and obtain a 50-cent box and make the actual test yourself after you have eaten a large and hearty meal—Advt.

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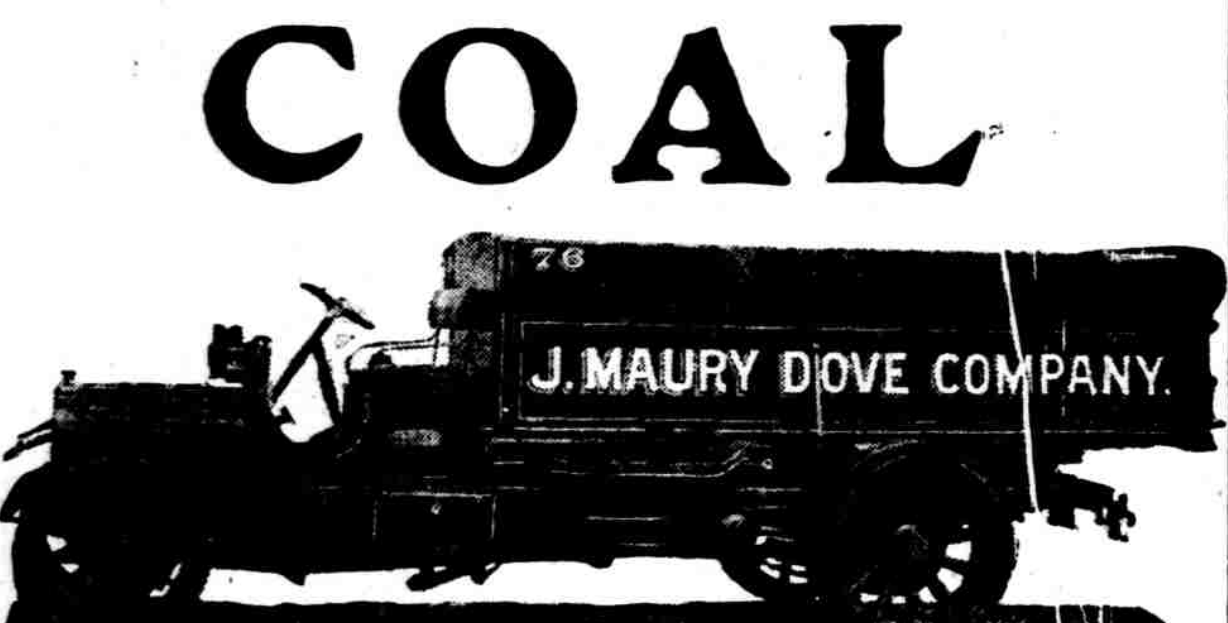
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